

PUBLIC BUILDING AT NEWPORT NEWS, VA.

FEBRUARY 16, 1895.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MCKAIG, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 915.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (S. 915) entitled "A bill for the erection of a public building for the use of the custom-house and post-office at Newport News, Va.," recommend the passage of said bill, and in support thereof submit the following statement:

A bill passed the Senate during the first session of the Fifty-second Congress providing for a similar building at Newport News, and the following letter, addressed to the then chairman of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, from the Supervising Architect of the Treasury, was received:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT,
Washington, D. C., January 23, 1890.

SIR: In compliance with that portion of your letter of the 14th ultimo which requested such information as I may have and my opinion in regard to the advisability of Senate bill 1027, introduced on the 10th ultimo by Hon. John W. Daniel, becoming a law, to provide for the acquisition of a site and the erection thereon of a public building for the accommodation of the "custom-house, internal-revenue office, and post-office" in Newport News, Va., at a cost not to exceed \$100,000, I have the honor to submit the following:

Copy of a report dated December 30, 1889, addressed to this office by the honorable the Postmaster-General.

Copy of a report dated January 13, 1890, addressed to this office by the postmaster of Newport News, Va.

Copy of a paper entitled "Statement of facts relative to Newport News, Va., showing the necessity for the erection there of a suitable custom-house and post-office building," dated December, 1889.

Copy of a statement dated December 26, 1889, addressed to this office by the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

Copy of a report dated January 21, 1890, addressed to this office by the collector of internal revenue at Petersburg, Va., in regard to the internal-revenue business at Newport News, Va.

Copy of a report dated December 31, 1889, addressed to this office by the collector of customs at Newport News, Va.

Copy of a report dated December 24, 1889, addressed to this office by the Commissioner of Customs.

After considering the statements made in the papers above cited, in connection with computations made in this office, I am of the opinion that a site can be procured and a public building, about 45 by 90 feet in dimensions, two stories high, with basement, of fireproof construction, with heating apparatus, vaults, and approaches, and without elevator service, which is not deemed necessary, can be erected thereon within the limit of cost proposed by said bill, \$100,000; and that such a building would afford ample accommodations for the present and prospective needs of the Government office to be located therein, and that said bill should become a law.

By reference to office letter dated February 1, 1888, addressed to your committee, it will be seen that the subject of the necessity for erecting a public building in Newport News, Va., has heretofore received the attention of this office and the consideration of Congress.

Respectfully, yours,

JAS. H. WINDRIM,
Supervising Architect.

HON. LELAND STANFORD,
Chairman Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, United States Senate.

Newport News, Va., now a progressive city of some 10,000 inhabitants, is located on the Virginia peninsula between the James River and Chesapeake Bay, and in full view of the gateway to Hampton Roads, one of the finest harbors in the world, and not far distant from Fort Monroe and Fort Norfolk. The waters at Newport News are of sufficient depth to float the largest ships, are approached by broad channels of ample soundings, and offer a safe protection against the storms of the ocean. It is the terminal eastern point of the great Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, which conducts a mammoth coal trade with coastwise and foreign steamers, and it has one of the largest elevators in the world, having a storage capacity of 1,500,000 bushels. The most interesting single feature of this new and enterprising city is the great plant of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock Company. This enterprise occupies 75 acres of ground, with a water frontage of a half mile, and the buildings already in use cover 6 acres. It is engaged in the construction of iron and steel steamships and iron vessels of all kinds. Its dry dock is 600 feet long, with a width of 130 feet; its machinery is of the latest pattern; it has completed the construction of several iron vessels; is now at work on three gunboats for the United States, and has sent out two of the largest merchant shipsever built in America. The city is destined to become one of the most important seaboard communities, employing now 2,000 workmen, and with every mark of industry and progress. The exports and imports at this point for thirteen months ending October 31, 1894, were as follows:

Foreign exports and imports at Newport News, Va., for thirteen months ending October 13, 1894.

Date.	Exports.	Imports.
October, 1893.....	\$937,568	\$3,867.00
November, 1893.....	855,557	2,652.00
December, 1893.....	1,592,262	50,358.00
January, 1894.....	1,680,162	16,120.00
February, 1894.....	1,449,738	68,554.00
March, 1894.....	1,271,219	41,690.00
April, 1894.....	1,692,235	59,422.00
May, 1894.....	1,022,746	44,637.00
June, 1894.....	787,374	48,798.00
July, 1894.....	1,059,136	41,536.00
August, 1894.....	952,491	55,212.00
September, 1894.....	746,196	58,630.00
October, 1894.....	869,075	195,567.03
Total.....	14,915,759	687,043.03

We append a statement of the Auditor of the Post-Office Department showing the postal receipts at Newport News for the last five years. It will be observed that they have trebled since 1890, and nearly doubled since 1891. The city is steadily progressing and there can be no reasonable doubt that this building is needed and will be a great public convenience.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR OF THE TREASURY
FOR THE POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., January 29, 1895.

SIR: Your letter of the 28th instant, addressed to the honorable Postmaster-General, has been referred, and in reply this office has the honor to submit herewith statement of the gross receipts for the last five years at the post-office at Newport News, Va.:

Fiscal year:	Gross receipts.
1890	\$4, 440. 51
1891	6, 752. 38
1892	10, 206. 90
1893	10, 837. 02
1894	13, 397. 10

Very respectfully,

GEO. A. HOWARD, *Auditor.*

Hon. JNO. W. DANIEL,
United States Senate.

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